

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ROME 001220

SIPDIS

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AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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SIPDIS

ALMATY FOR EMBASSY DUSHANBE
NSC FOR KHALILZAD
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR SA/PAB, SA/PD, EUR/PPD, EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL OPRC AF AFGHANISTAN
SUBJECT: FORMER KING ISSUES STATEMENTS REPUDIATING PRESS ARTICLES

REF: ROME 1207

11. THE OFFICE OF FORMER AFGHAN KING ZAHIR SHAH RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON MARCH 8, DESPITE THE DATE OF MARCH 7 THAT APPEARS ON THE STATEMENTS THEMSELVES. (COMMENT: THE KING'S OFFICE DID NOT HAVE CONTACT INFO FOR MANY JOURNALISTS/MEDIA OUTLETS, SO IT IS LIKELY THAT THE STATEMENTS DID NOT RECEIVE WIDE DISTRIBUTION. END COMMENT.) THE AFGHANS REQUESTED THAT WE "SEND THE STATEMENTS TO ANYONE WE WISHED" (PA ENSURED THAT ANSA AND "LA STAMPA" RECEIVED THE INFORMATION) AND ALSO THAT WE PASS THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

12. BEGIN TEXT, FIRST STATEMENT:

PRESS RELEASE

UNCLASSIFIED

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ROME, MARCH 7, 2002

THE SECRETARIAT OF HIS MAJESTY MOHAMMED ZAHER THE FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN INFORMS CONCERNED AUTHORITIES AND THE MASS MEDIA THAT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED ON MARCH 7, 2002 EDITION TO THE PERSON OF THE FORMER KING BY THE NEWSPAPER "LA STAMPA" ARE COMPLETELY ERRONEOUS AND HIGHLY MISLEADING.

HIS MAJESTY THE FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN HAD, AT NO TIME, GRANTED OR CONCEDED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED NEWSPAPER.

HIS MAJESTY THE FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING, COMMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S COMMON AND UNITED STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS.

END.

(SEAL OF "SECRETARIAT OF HIS MAJESTY ZAHER SHAH")

END TEXT, FIRST STATEMENT.

13. BEGIN TEXT, SECOND STATEMENT:

PRESS RELEASE

ROME, MARCH 7, 2002

THE SECRETARIAT OF HIS MAJESTY THE FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN INFORMS THAT, REPORTS APPEARING IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MEDIUMS, STATING THAT THE FORMER KING'S HISTORIC RETURN TO HIS SACRED HOMELAND IS CANCELLED IS UNFOUNDED AND WITHOUT ANY BASIS.

HIS MAJESTY THE FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN, WITH THE WILL OF ALMIGHTY GOD, SHALL RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING.

END

(SEAL OF "SECRETARIAT OF HIS MAJESTY ZAHER SHAH")

END TEXT, SECOND STATEMENT.
MINIMIZED
POPE

UNCLASSIFIED

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